President's Corner

By Léo Lefebvre,
President, Toronto Users Group for Midrange Systems

Léo Lefebvre

Here I am, once again, in the Corner! It's my fifth time at the head of this fantastic users group and I just love it! Plus, this is a special year. I don't know if you noticed, but on the cover of this magazine, the volume number is quite a "round" number. Have look at it. (Don't worry, I'll wait for you to come back...) Did you see? Yes, this is TUG's 20th season. What an achievement! Since 1985, this group just keeps rolling (like the Energizer™ bunny.) And we're not out of breath yet! Wait 'till you see the program we are planning especially for you, TUG members!

The Year of the Six MoMs

First of all, let me tell you that I have nicknamed this year, "The Year of the Six MoMs". As you know our regular seasons present five meetings, but this year, we will have one extra. And that special meeting will be presented during the COMMON Fall 2004 Conference here in Toronto, at the Convention Centre downtown. The date: Monday, October 18, 2004. The time: 5:00 pm. Our very special speaker for that meeting will be none other than the iSeries database expert, **Skip Marchesani**, with a preamble by **John Reed**, Director of iSeries Product Management at IBM. Skip will give you few tips and show you some tricks on SQL in his session: "I Didn't Know You Could Do That Using SQL". The invitation is sent to all TUG members. There is absolutely no cost to attend the session and you don't even need to be a COMMON conference attendee. On top of that, if you come early enough, you will be able to visit the free Vendor Expo presented by COMMON. And, if you stay around a bit longer after the session, you are invited to attend the Monday night COMMON Users Discussion Social (CUDS) and meet attendees, speakers and COMMON Directors.

What a day that will be! Of course, if you are attending the COMMON Conference you are invited to join us as well. (You cannot afford to skip Skip's session.) :)

TUG will also be helping to staff the LUG table at the conference, and will have its own booth. The LUG table is open Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, and will showcase all of the world iSeries Local Users Groups. TUG will be the most prominent. Don't forget, COMMON is coming into TUG's territory, and we are determined to show the world what a group like TUG can do! Stop by, say hello, and put your name down for some fantastic prizes (to be drawn on Tuesday afternoon). If you would like to volunteer for booth duty any time during the three days, please send an e-mail to Wende Boddy at admin@tug.ca.

September MoM at IBM Toronto Lab

Before COMMON invades Toronto, we will have time for our regular September MoM. On September 22, TUG will host its first meeting of the year at the **IBM Toronto Lab** (at Warden & Highway 7 in Markham). We will start with a brief tour of the facilities at 4:00pm. Then at 4:30pm, **Claus Weiss** will be the moderator of a forum on WebSphere. After that, **Peter Beggs**, from IBM Toronto and **Mark Buchner** of ASTECH Solutions will be the featured speakers for the evening. See the Agenda on page 12, for more details.

Future Venues

Due to the great success we had with our previous visits, we are going back to Woodbine Racetrack for our November meeting. If you don't want to be disappointed, make your reservation early. The place is fun and the food is fantastic.

This season, we are also planning other special events, including our 20th Anniversary celebration.

What? … pSeries?

This year we are also planning to embrace the pSeries! As you know, with the announcements in May 2004 of the i5 and in July of the p5, the two machines are physically the same. The difference will be the operating system running in the primary partition. More and more we see companies (including TUG members) venturing into the world of Unix and AIX. So to serve them better, we have formed a committee that will plan for AIX and p5 subjects. If you would like to get involved with that – send me an e-mail.

TEC 2005

Yes, we are preparing another Technical Education Conference (TEC). In 2005, the conference will be on Tuesday April 19 and Wednesday April 20. And, guess what? Even for its 12th annual presentation, we will have something new again. (More on that later.)

A users group like ours cannot survive without the support of its members and a good dialogue between the base and the directors. We need your input. Tell us about your expectations from TUG, what you would like us to present, where, and who we should invite as speakers. As you can see, we will have a ball in our 20th season. Don't miss it. We're going full speed ahead!